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In This Palimpsest: Celebrations and Stereotypes

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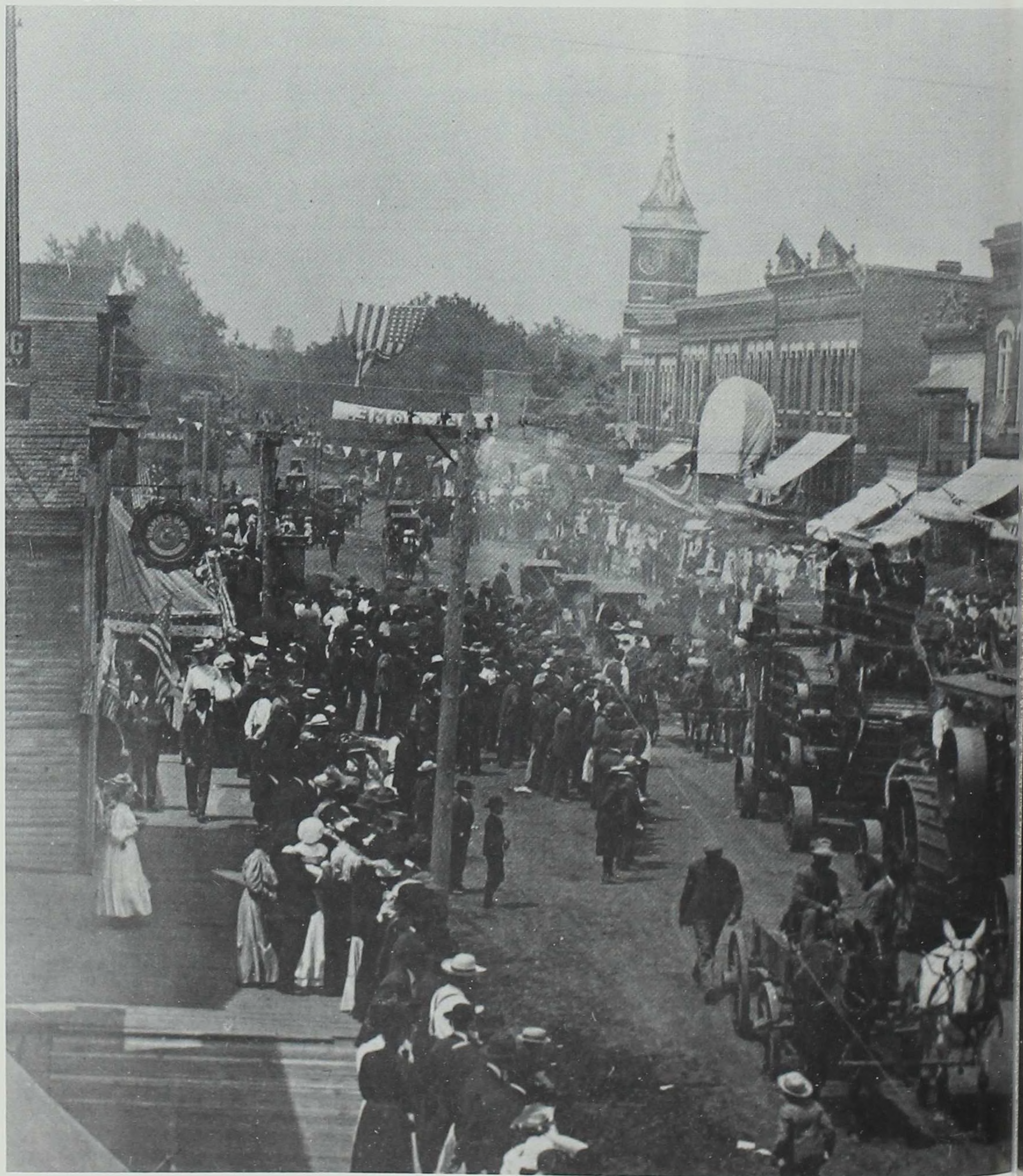
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In This *Palimpsest* —

Threshing equipment joins a Fourth of July parade in Sumner, Iowa, 1906.



Celebrations & Stereotypes



SUMMERS in rural and small-town Iowa were once climaxed by two events — threshing and the Fourth of July. Through words and images, this *Palimpsest* marks those two summertime rituals — one of work and one of play.

In both events, pride apparently motivated certain individuals to pull out their cameras and record these celebrations of harvest and independence. Consequently, the archives of the State Historical Society are blessed with rich photo collections pertaining to the Fourth of July and neighborhood threshing, and we present a sampling of these photos. This issue also includes personal essays on farm work and Part 2 in our series on interpreting and caring for historical photographs.

We also present in this issue a more sobering look at our past. Author William Hewitt explores racial stereotypes at the turn of the century. He focuses on popular entertainment in Sioux City as a way of revealing midwestern attitudes about race. What is revealed are not causes for celebration or pride — but causes for reflection.

— *The Editor*